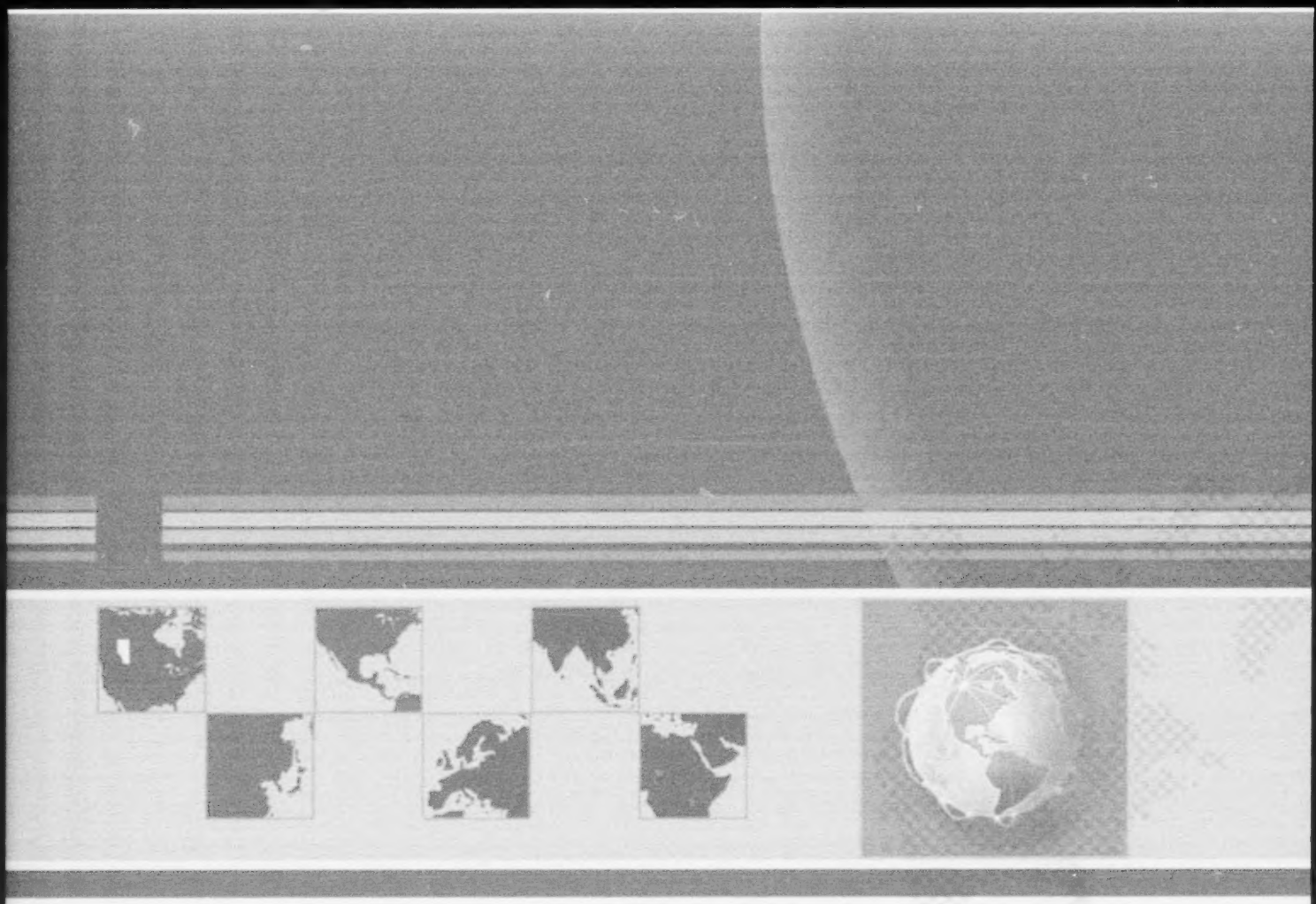

ALBERTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2005 Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey for Selected Alberta Communities

November 2005
Policy and Economic Analysis

Alberta Government

Alberta Advantage

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In April 2005, Alberta Finance, Statistics conducted a Spatial Price Survey on behalf of Alberta Economic Development and Alberta Education. Similar surveys were conducted in April of 2001 for 10 Alberta communities and June of 2003 for 34 Alberta locations. The most current population statistics for each location are provided in Table 1.

This report presents the survey findings for 37 Alberta communities, with Edmonton designated as the reference base (i.e. Edmonton = 100.0).

The following sections of this report introduce the concept of price indices, describe how the indices relate to the data presented; detail the survey design and methodology employed; and provide an analysis of the Edmonton-based comparisons. A detailed list of food and non-food categories is presented at the conclusion of this report.

Table 1
2004 ALBERTA POPULATION BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	COMMUNITY	POPULATION
Athabasca	2,415	Lethbridge	72,717
Barrhead	4,213	Lloydminster	13,148
Brooks	11,604	Medicine Hat	51,249
Calgary	933,495	Okotoks	11,664
Camrose	15,699	Olds	6,607
Canmore	11,458	Peace River	6,240
Cold Lake	11,595	Pincher Creek	3,666
Drayton Valley	6,210	Ponoka	6,330
Drumheller	7,785	Red Deer	75,923
Edmonton	666,104	Rocky Mountain House	6,584
Fort McMurray	56,111*	Slave Lake	6,600
Grande Cache	3,828	Stettler	5,226
Grande Prairie	40,226	St. Albert	54,588
Hanna	2,986	St. Paul	5,144
High Level	3,849	Taber	7,671
High Prairie	2,820	Vegreville	5,376
High River	9,522	Wainwright	5,183
Hinton	9,405	Whitecourt	8,747
Jasper	4,511**		

Source: "2004 Official Population List", Alberta Municipal Affairs, Municipal Services
* Figure represents the urban service area (Fort McMurray) of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo with shadow population = 0.
**Figure represents the Municipality of Jasper with shadow population = 351.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides a brief background describing the "aggregate" or "complex" price index employed in this survey.

2.1 SPATIAL PRICE INDICES

A price index is a ratio of two numbers: a comparative price and the base price to which it is compared. Indices are tools to measure the differences in one price relative to the other and may be constructed to measure price differences for individual commodities, for a basket of goods, or for a group of commodities. An index that measures differences in individual commodities is referred to as a "price relative" or a "simple price index" whereas an index that measures differences between a group/basket of goods generally represents an "aggregate" or "complex" price index.

The value of the base is generally established at 100.0 with all other prices expressed in terms of this base. An index with a value greater than 100.0 indicates that prices are higher than the base price or vice versa and allows for comparison and interpretation in percentage terms. For example, an index of 120.0 indicates a twenty-percent difference between the base point and the index value inferring that prices are twenty percent higher than the reference base. An index of 90.0 would signify prices are ten percent lower.

There are several different types of price index measurements. The price index produced for this publication is a **spatial price index**, which is location-based and compares the prices of one or more commodities between various locations at a **specific point in time**. Spatial indices may be used to 1) compare one reference location and several communities, and 2) measure price differences between any two communities. For the purpose of this survey, only comparisons with one reference location (Edmonton) and several communities can be made. Since a spatial index does not measure price movements over time but measures price differences between communities, price levels within the comparable communities are always collected at one point in time in order to remove any time-related biases.

For the purposes of this survey, aggregate or complex price indices are generated.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 PURPOSE OF SURVEY

The purpose of the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is to measure price differences between selected Alberta communities and Edmonton for a specific basket of goods and services at a specific point in time. The price differentials are measured through the construction of spatial price indices for the selected survey communities.

3.2 SURVEY DESIGN & CONTENT

The following steps are required to construct a spatial price index:

1. The survey communities must be chosen;
2. A basket of goods and services to be surveyed must be selected; and
3. The prices of these goods and services must be collected during a specified time period in each community.

For the 2005 survey, sponsors selected 37 Alberta communities, with Edmonton designated as the reference location.

The goods and services used for this survey are similar to the survey items used by Statistics Canada to construct monthly Consumer Price Indices for Alberta cities. A total of 302 goods and services form a subset of Statistic Canada's basket of survey items and were selected based on the following criteria:

1. The items comprise those goods and services perceived to be regularly purchased by Alberta consumers (based on the Survey of Household Spending) living in cities, and medium/small-sized towns.
2. The items are judged to be available in most of the selected communities to allow price comparability.

Each item is associated with a retail price such that a sum of money must be paid by a consumer in order to purchase a specific quantity and quality of a good or service.

With the survey locations and a basket of goods and services selected, a pricing period is then established. To minimize time-related biases, prices in all centres were collected within a two-week period from April 25 to May 6, 2005.

To ensure accuracy and consistency in the pricing of the 302-item basket of goods and services, it was essential that all the items be carefully matched across all communities. In order to facilitate this process, pricers were provided with specification sheets containing a detailed description of each article to be priced, including brand name, quantity and size. If the specified brand was unavailable, a list of alternatives was also provided. Survey personnel were asked to price one of the specified brands and record other details such as size and style number.

If none of the specified brands were available, pricers were asked to price a close substitute and provide a detailed description of the item. This substitute item was then priced in Edmonton to ensure comparability between the two communities. In this manner, item consistency was assured between Edmonton and each community but could differ among communities for some articles. If a reasonable substitute was unavailable in some communities, these articles were excluded from the survey list for those particular centres.

3.3 Special Pricing Procedures

Certain goods and services could not be directly priced in the field through retail or service outlets found in the survey communities. Items that required special pricing procedures included monthly housing payments, rental costs, property taxes, and utilities such as natural gas, electricity, water, garbage disposal, and sewage charges.

Calculating monthly housing payments and mortgage interest costs for each community required several steps. Housing prices were first collected in each community for several styles of single detached residential dwellings. A variety of secondary data sources such as Alberta Municipal Affairs, Royal LePage Survey of Canadian House Prices, and local real estate boards or agencies provided and/or confirmed housing prices for each community. Several home details such as age of dwelling, square footage of home and lot, amenities, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, etc. were taken into consideration in pricing a similar home in Edmonton. A survey of the average mortgage down payment and mortgage rates for a one, three and five-year term as of April 2005 was conducted. The mortgage rates were blended to calculate an average mortgage interest of 4.739 per cent as of April 2005. This rate was then applied in combination with a five percent down payment and 25-year amortization period to determine mortgage interest costs for each community.

Average monthly rental costs for each location were obtained through a survey and supported with statistics gathered by local real estate boards, local property management companies, Alberta Seniors and local/municipal government offices.

To derive the average monthly property tax bill in each survey community for April 2005, Alberta Municipal Affairs and local/municipal government offices provided residential mill rates for each community. Residential mill rates were applied to the average housing price surveyed in each community to derive an average monthly tax bill.

In order to calculate monthly natural gas, electricity, water, sewage, and garbage disposal charges per household in each of the survey communities, an average monthly household consumption figure was obtained for each item from local/municipal government offices and/or suppliers of each utility. The consumption figure was then multiplied by the applicable rates to derive typical household costs in each community. Utility suppliers provided delivery charges, consumption charges, administration or billing charges, municipal franchise fees, and rebates that were applied to each location where applicable.

3.4 Weighting Factors

Price indices may be calculated as weighted or not weighted. The disadvantage of "unweighted" price indices is that their relative importance to the consumer is not taken into consideration, therefore equal weight or "importance" is assigned to all goods and their prices. By assigning equal weight to various goods, a distortion of the index can be created. For example, a change in the price of milk would not carry the same significance to a consumer as would a change in the price of meat. If these goods were given equal weight, the resulting change in the overall index would not be accurately measured in terms of their actual consumer impact.

In order to avoid this problem, weights have been assigned to all goods and services priced in the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey. Weights are provided by Statistics Canada and are derived from Survey of Household Spending data. Assigning a weight to each survey item serves to: 1) ensure that goods or services reflect their relative importance to the consumer, 2) correctly calculate a spatial price index, and 3) avoid exerting undue influence on the spatial indices creating a distortion on the true magnitude of the overall price difference between communities.

The 2005 Alberta Spatial Price survey uses a subset of the basket used by Statistics Canada that determines monthly the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Edmonton and Calgary. The Statistics Canada basket is based on the expenditures of a target population in a certain reference period, i.e. 2001. As such, the basket for the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is weighted according to the April 2005 CPI expenditure weights for Alberta and accounts for 84.7 percent of the weighted CPI basket. A normalized weighting distribution for the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey basket of goods and services is presented in Figure 4 located in the Appendices. The chart indicates that the weighting pattern used for each aggregate index in the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is relatively consistent with the 2001 CPI basket of goods and services' weight distribution.

3.5 INDEX CONSTRUCTION

For the purpose of this survey, an aggregate price index was generated using prices observed for 302 commodities in each of the 36 communities. Table 6 in the Appendices outlines the basket of goods and services used to generate the Edmonton-based indices. Several items listed in Statistics Canada's CPI basket were excluded due to the lack of availability or comparability of these items in some survey locations. For each survey community, a total of twenty aggregates are produced which include three aggregate and seventeen sub-aggregate indices. The indices are provided in Tables 2 through 5 found in the Appendices.

The aggregate indices constructed for each survey community include:

1. An all-commodity index (up to 302 items);
2. A food index (up to 109 items);
3. A non-food index (up to 193 items); and
4. A commodity category index (up to 45 items).

Seventeen category-specific indices form subsets of the aggregate food and non-food indices.

The specific food indices are:

- Dairy Products
- Fats and Oils
- Cereals and Breads
- Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Meat, Fish, Poultry and Substitutes
- Frozen and Packaged Food
- Restaurant Meals

The non-food indices are:

- Personal Care Products
- Household Supplies
- Household Services
- Household Equipment
- Recreation and Leisure
- Transportation
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Utilities

complex indices are needed to capture, single value, several commodities per lo... The most common method of simultaneously comparing several prices between different communities is to compare their averages. For example, suppose prices have been observed for three specific goods in two communities where Location A serves as the base community and Location B is the comparative community. The price of good 1 in Location A is denoted as P_{A1}, and in Location B as P_{B1}. The price ratio for good 1 would therefore be (P_{B1}/P_{A1}); for good 2: (P_{B2}/P_{A2}); and for good 3: (P_{B3}/P_{A3}).

To construct an aggregate price index that compares the average of the price ratios between communities, the price ratios are summed and then divided by the number of entries in the sum. In order to derive an aggregate index value, the average price index of the three commodities is multiplied by 100. The construction of this aggregate price index is:

Aggregate Price Index =

$$\frac{[(P_{B1}/P_{A1}) + (P_{B2}/P_{A2}) + (P_{B3}/P_{A3})]}{\text{Number of Ratios}} \times 100$$

An aggregate price index of 145.0 implies that the prices of the selected goods in Location B are 45 per cent higher than in Location A. Conversely, a price index of 97.0 indicates that prices are 3 per cent lower in Location B than in Location A.

Price ratios are constructed and compare each community with Edmonton. These ratios are then weighted and summed to calculate the various indices. More specifically, the process in deriving the index calculations for the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is as follows:

Step 1: **Ratio of Prices**:

$$\frac{\text{Average Price of Item in Community A}}{\text{Average Price of Item in Edmonton}}$$

Step 2: **Weighted Ratio**:

Ratio of Prices x Item Weight

Step 3: **Category Index**:

$$\frac{\Sigma \text{ (Weighted Ratio for a Category)}}{\Sigma \text{ (Item Weights for Category)}} \times 100$$

3.6 DATA COLLECTION

Employees of Alberta Finance, Statistics surveyed items through personal visits to retail and service establishments in each survey community. Where possible, staff was hired from each of the local communities to conduct the pricing. To ensure a representative sample of prices, survey personnel collected a minimum of three prices per item in each community. Pricers were asked to disregard special or sale prices on items and to record only regular prices without GST to improve data reliability and confidence.

3.7 DATA PROCESSING

Data analysis was performed using SAS software. Extensive data editing and verification procedures were utilized to ensure item consistency between the base location (Edmonton) and the other survey communities.

3.8 Guarantee of Confidentiality

The survey was conducted in accordance with The Statistics (Bureau) Act of Alberta, Chapter S-18 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, whereby confidentiality is guaranteed under this Act.

3.9 Cautionary Notes

The reader should note that when using the indices in this publication, the following assumptions and limitations should be kept in mind:

1. The purpose of this survey is to produce spatial price indices that compare price levels in selected communities to those in Edmonton at a specific point in time. The indices constructed for this publication cannot be compared over time to determine price changes.
2. The expenditure weights of the 302-item basket of goods and services are based on the weighting pattern for Alberta from Statistics Canada's Survey of Household Spending data. Since expenditure weighting patterns are unavailable for other survey communities, they are assumed to be the same as those used for Alberta. It is probable that in communities outside Edmonton, consumption and expenditure weighting patterns differ through the influence of local factors such as customs, tastes, incomes and product availability.
3. The 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey does not produce cost-of-living indices for the 37 selected communities. The present methodology employed does not incorporate many of the variables necessary to construct such an index. A cost-of-living index requires complete information about a person's tastes and consuming habits and measures price changes that are experienced by consumers in maintaining a constant standard of living. In this situation, consumers would normally switch between products as the price relationship of goods changes and may choose the cheaper of the interchangeable products. The 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey utilizes a fixed basket of goods and services to derive the price indices.
4. Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

The results of the 2005 Alberta Spatial Price Survey are presented in Tables 2 to 5 and Figures 1 to 3 (Figures located in Appendices). For all indices, Edmonton prices serve as the reference base with each Edmonton index assigned a value of 100.0. All other indices reflect community prices relative to this base index. For example, communities with an index of 100.0 for any component category or for the total basket of goods and services experience prices equivalent to those in Edmonton. Indices of less than 100.0 indicate community prices were lower than the base community while centres with indices greater than 100.0 recorded prices higher than in Edmonton. As a note, the number of items priced and the weighting patterns can vary between commodity categories for each community surveyed due to lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

4.1 ALL COMMODITY INDICES

Table 2 and Figure 1 present the aggregate **All-Commodity Indices** for each of the 37 survey communities. Included in Table 2 are the overall weighting patterns for each community and the number of items surveyed.

For the 2005 survey, Barrhead recorded the lowest price index of 93.1, the result of a low Shelter index. The three highest all-commodities indices were reported for Canmore, Jasper and Fort McMurray at 116.5, 115.9 and 115.7 respectively. Canmore's high all-commodity index may be attributed to its high sub-aggregate indices for Household Equipment and Shelter. In addition, five communities (High Level, Grande Prairie, Calgary, Slave Lake, and Peace River) were observed to have higher all-commodity indices in comparison to the Edmonton base. Indices for these locations ranged from 101.8 to 103.3.

4.2 FOOD INDICES

Overall **Food Indices** are provided in Table 3 and Figure 2. The indices range from 93.0 (Cold Lake) to 110.7 (Jasper). Jasper's eight food subcategories ranged from 106.3 to 120.3 with the highest value representing Cereals and Breads. Although Canmore reported the highest all-commodity index, this location had three food sub-aggregate indices lower than Edmonton.

4.3 NON-FOOD INDICES

Table 4 and Figure 3 present the **Non-Food Indices** for each community. When compared to Edmonton, eight communities reported higher non-food indices ranging from 102.1 (Peace River) to 120.4 (Canmore). These communities include Peace River, Slave Lake, Grande Prairie, High Level, Calgary, Jasper, Fort McMurray and Canmore. Barrhead exhibited the lowest non-food index of 91.1 and had the lowest Shelter commodity index of 69.4 in comparison to other surveyed communities. In addition, Canmore reported indices greater than Edmonton's base of 100.0 for eight of the nine specific non-food categories.

In general, the higher non-food indices may be attributed to the significant influence exerted by the shelter component in the spatial price survey. While the shelter category accurately reflects the cost of housing in each community for similar structures, many qualitative aspects such as location, age of dwelling, finish, etc. may not be fully accounted for in determining real estate values for each of these communities. For this reason, caution must be exercised in generalizing trends for individual commodity categories based on the aggregate indices for the non-food component of this survey.

4.4 Commodity Category Indices

Table 5 provides a breakdown of both the food and non-food components into their seventeen sub-component commodity categories. The highest Shelter index of 169.8 was reported for Canmore followed by Fort McMurray and Jasper at 169.7 and 137.7, respectively. The community of Medicine Hat possessed the lowest Utilities price index of 74.1 in comparison to other surveyed communities that ranged from 90.5 (Wainwright) to 123.1 (High Level).

Figure 1 in the Appendices illustrates that approximately 59% of the total survey basket weight is comprised of food, shelter, and transportation. In addition, recreation, education and reading account for 13.9% of the total basket of goods and services used in the survey.

In comparison to Edmonton, several surveyed communities reported higher sub-aggregate price indices for the categories of Household Supplies and Household Equipment. Lower price indices were observed for the commodity category of Household Services.

Although these indices are accurate, they may not adequately represent many qualitative differences.

APPENDICES

TABLE 2

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

ALL COMMODITY INDICES

Number of Items Surveyed, Aggregate Indices and Weighting Patterns
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	ALL COMMODITY INDICES
Edmonton	302	84.7	100.0
Athabasca	265	80.7	97.6
Barrhead	296	84.2	93.1
Brooks	295	84.1	98.2
Calgary	302	84.7	102.2
Camrose	299	84.5	95.3
Canmore	292	83.0	116.5
Cold Lake	295	84.2	96.7
Drayton Valley	295	84.2	96.4
Drumheller	296	84.4	100.0
Fort McMurray	298	84.6	115.7
Grande Cache	274	73.7	96.1
Grande Prairie	302	84.7	103.0
Hanna	282	82.7	97.1
High Level	293	84.4	103.3
High Prairie	290	83.9	98.8
High River	268	83.1	98.5
Hinton	296	84.3	99.8
Jasper	277	75.8	115.9
Lethbridge	300	84.7	96.5
Lloydminster	295	82.7	95.8
Medicine Hat	299	84.7	97.7
Okotoks	298	84.4	99.8
Olds	297	84.3	96.0
Peace River	298	84.5	101.8
Pincher Creek	294	83.6	94.8
Ponoka	286	84.0	94.2
Red Deer	301	84.7	96.6
Rocky Mountain House	298	84.2	98.9
Slave Lake	294	83.6	101.9
St. Albert	299	84.7	99.5
St. Paul	293	84.2	95.0
Stettler	299	84.5	94.5
Taber	273	79.4	98.3
Vegreville	294	84.4	95.2
Wainwright	294	84.1	94.9
Whitecourt	294	84.4	95.9

*** Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.**

TABLE 3

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

ALL FOOD INDICES

Number of Food Items Surveyed, Aggregate Indices and Weighting Patterns
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	FOOD INDICES
Edmonton	109	15.4	100.0
Athabasca	108	15.4	104.7
Barrhead	107	15.4	102.2
Brooks	108	15.3	105.1
Calgary	109	15.4	99.6
Camrose	109	15.4	101.4
Canmore	109	15.4	99.5
Cold Lake	107	15.3	93.0
Drayton Valley	109	15.4	96.2
Drumheller	109	15.4	106.2
Fort McMurray	109	15.4	103.5
Grande Cache	107	15.4	104.9
Grande Prairie	109	15.4	106.0
Hanna	106	15.4	103.4
High Level	107	15.4	105.5
High Prairie	108	15.4	104.9
High River	109	15.4	98.6
Hinton	109	15.4	108.3
Jasper	109	15.4	110.7
Lethbridge	109	15.4	103.8
Lloydminster	109	15.4	97.5
Medicine Hat	109	15.4	98.5
Okotoks	109	15.4	99.9
Olds	108	15.3	96.2
Peace River	108	15.4	100.4
Pincher Creek	109	15.4	98.6
Ponoka	109	15.4	99.6
Red Deer	109	15.4	97.0
Rocky Mountain House	109	15.4	98.2
Slave Lake	109	15.4	100.4
St. Albert	109	15.4	97.1
St. Paul	109	15.4	100.3
Stettler	109	15.4	94.8
Taber	108	15.4	105.0
Vegreville	108	15.4	99.7
Wainwright	108	15.4	102.8
Whitecourt	109	15.4	97.9

*** Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.**

TABLE 4

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

ALL NON-FOOD INDICES

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed, Aggregate Indices and Weighting Patterns
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	NON-FOOD INDICES
Edmonton	193	69.4	100.0
Athabasca	157	65.3	95.9
Barrhead	189	68.9	91.0
Brooks	187	68.7	96.7
Calgary	193	69.4	102.8
Camrose	190	69.1	94.0
Canmore	183	67.6	120.4
Cold Lake	188	68.9	97.5
Drayton Valley	186	68.8	96.5
Drumheller	187	69.0	98.5
Fort McMurray	189	69.2	118.4
Grande Cache	167	58.3	93.7
Grande Prairie	193	69.4	102.3
Hanna	176	67.4	95.7
High Level	186	69.0	102.8
High Prairie	182	68.5	97.4
High River	159	67.7	98.4
Hinton	187	68.9	97.9
Jasper	168	60.4	117.3
Lethbridge	191	69.4	94.9
Lloydminster	186	67.3	95.5
Medicine Hat	190	69.4	97.5
Okotoks	189	69.0	99.8
Olds	189	69.0	96.0
Peace River	190	69.1	102.1
Pincher Creek	185	68.2	94.0
Ponoka	177	68.6	93.0
Red Deer	192	69.4	96.5
Rocky Mountain House	189	68.9	99.1
Slave Lake	185	68.2	102.3
St. Albert	190	69.3	100.0
St. Paul	184	68.9	93.8
Stettler	190	69.1	94.4
Taber	165	64.0	96.7
Vegreville	186	69.0	94.1
Wainwright	186	68.8	93.1
Whitecourt	185	69.0	95.4

*** Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.**

TABLE 5

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

COMMODITY CATEGORY INDICES

Number of Food Items Surveyed*, Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	DAIRY		FATS & OILS		CEREALS & BREADS		PROCESSED FRUITS & VEGETABLES	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	11	100.0	2	100.0	14	100.0	14
Athabasca	108.8	11	102.5	2	109.5	14	108.1	14
Barrhead	109.3	10	107.3	2	109.5	13	114.9	14
Brooks	105.3	11	112.3	1	108.6	14	113.5	14
Calgary	93.8	11	101.0	2	101.1	14	98.1	14
Camrose	100.7	11	106.0	2	98.9	14	101.8	14
Canmore	101.9	11	102.2	2	96.5	14	101.3	14
Cold Lake	103.1	11	97.8	1	98.3	14	91.0	14
Drayton Valley	108.5	11	111.7	2	108.7	14	90.5	14
Drumheller	108.2	11	115.3	2	114.6	14	107.2	14
Fort McMurray	94.4	11	104.3	2	101.3	14	96.5	14
Grande Cache	106.7	11	109.5	2	109.9	13	110.1	14
Grande Prairie	101.4	11	111.6	2	109.6	14	101.5	14
Hanna	109.5	11	106.6	2	111.6	14	115.3	14
High Level	110.2	11	101.9	2	109.6	14	103.5	14
High Prairie	111.8	11	107.8	2	111.3	13	118.0	14
High River	99.0	11	87.5	2	107.6	14	94.8	14
Hinton	108.4	11	114.8	2	112.3	14	116.8	14
Jasper	108.7	11	108.7	2	120.3	14	115.9	14
Lethbridge	98.6	11	101.7	2	103.8	14	102.3	14
Lloydminster	95.0	11	92.1	2	94.3	14	93.6	14
Medicine Hat	96.7	11	102.8	2	101.9	14	98.4	14
Okotoks	99.5	11	93.8	2	97.9	14	91.1	14
Olds	98.8	11	109.5	1	101.9	14	97.5	14
Peace River	108.1	11	108.5	2	106.0	14	105.8	14
Pincher Creek	104.3	11	103.7	2	97.6	14	102.2	14
Ponoka	104.2	11	93.7	2	105.8	14	100.2	14
Red Deer	111.8	11	90.5	2	96.2	14	90.6	14
Rocky Mtn.House	104.0	11	99.0	2	102.0	14	103.6	14
Slave Lake	107.0	11	102.7	2	114.2	14	103.9	14
St. Albert	95.3	11	99.2	2	97.9	14	92.7	14
St. Paul	106.8	11	103.4	2	107.3	14	106.6	14
Stettler	94.7	11	91.2	2	96.3	14	92.3	14
Taber	106.7	11	117.7	2	113.3	13	113.7	14
Vegreville	107.0	11	102.8	2	104.6	14	106.1	14
Wainwright	106.1	11	100.9	2	107.7	13	102.2	14
Whitecourt	102.2	11	89.9	2	102.3	14	93.9	14

*** Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.**

TABLE 5 (cont.)

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

COMMODITY CATEGORY INDICES

Number of Food Items Surveyed*, Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES		MEAT, FISH, POULTRY & SUBSTITUTES		FROZEN & PACKAGED FOODS		RESTAURANT MEALS	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	14	100.0	27	100.0	22	100.0	5
Athabasca	103.6	14	97.2	27	109.0	21	102.8	5
Barrhead	108.2	14	99.7	27	110.6	22	89.2	5
Brooks	102.8	14	109.0	27	110.4	22	97.4	5
Calgary	100.7	14	98.4	27	99.4	22	101.5	5
Camrose	105.5	14	98.1	27	103.1	22	102.1	5
Canmore	95.6	14	92.0	27	102.6	22	102.8	5
Cold Lake	92.7	13	88.0	27	94.8	22	89.7	5
Drayton Valley	100.0	14	91.2	27	96.9	22	89.1	5
Drumheller	109.5	14	97.1	27	101.1	22	109.2	5
Fort McMurray	98.9	14	94.3	27	102.6	22	115.7	5
Grande Cache	119.2	14	98.1	27	118.4	21	92.8	5
Grande Prairie	106.0	14	102.9	27	106.3	22	108.2	5
Hanna	107.0	12	101.3	26	110.9	22	91.6	5
High Level	115.1	12	96.0	27	104.4	22	106.1	5
High Prairie	121.8	14	101.6	27	110.5	22	91.5	5
High River	98.5	14	90.2	27	103.4	22	97.7	5
Hinton	111.7	14	116.1	27	112.3	22	97.3	5
Jasper	112.1	14	106.3	27	111.8	22	108.2	5
Lethbridge	107.9	14	97.9	27	106.1	22	106.4	5
Lloydminster	99.6	14	97.0	27	91.5	22	103.9	5
Medicine Hat	98.0	14	100.4	27	98.9	22	96.5	5
Okotoks	97.7	14	97.5	27	101.7	22	103.2	5
Olds	101.5	14	93.4	27	95.4	22	93.4	5
Peace River	97.2	14	105.9	26	97.8	22	94.0	5
Pincher Creek	102.0	14	97.0	27	106.7	22	91.3	5
Ponoka	99.0	14	92.1	27	104.9	22	96.9	5
Red Deer	98.0	14	90.3	27	91.2	22	100.9	5
Rocky Mtn.House	99.6	14	99.2	27	98.7	22	92.8	5
Slave Lake	106.4	14	94.4	27	99.9	22	94.4	5
St. Albert	96.2	14	96.2	27	94.5	22	100.3	5
St. Paul	99.6	14	97.4	27	108.2	22	91.0	5
Stettler	103.0	14	89.2	27	96.2	22	94.8	5
Taber	107.2	14	103.8	27	108.4	22	97.6	5
Vegreville	95.7	14	100.8	26	103.4	22	92.6	5
Wainwright	105.2	14	96.0	27	108.2	22	99.7	5
Whitecourt	95.4	14	89.9	27	96.0	22	102.1	5

* Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

TABLE 5 (cont.)

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

COMMODITY CATEGORY INDICES

Number of Non-food Items Surveyed*, Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS		HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES		HOUSEHOLD SERVICES		HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	21	100.0	26	100.0	18	100.0	23
Athabasca	105.6	21	107.0	26	89.4	14	101.1	17
Barrhead	109.0	21	109.4	26	87.4	18	102.1	23
Brooks	99.0	21	108.1	25	90.9	16	103.0	23
Calgary	95.3	21	100.0	26	102.1	18	102.1	23
Camrose	95.5	21	107.6	26	91.6	18	102.5	23
Canmore	102.9	20	106.4	26	98.7	15	110.4	23
Cold Lake	89.8	21	95.3	26	94.2	15	102.9	23
Drayton Valley	91.4	21	103.7	26	81.0	15	101.0	23
Drumheller	111.3	21	112.2	26	91.2	17	102.0	23
Fort McMurray	92.6	21	102.4	26	103.0	15	103.2	23
Grande Cache	120.7	21	106.1	25	84.3	13	102.0	23
Grande Prairie	91.2	21	101.0	26	99.8	18	100.6	23
Hanna	112.1	21	109.1	25	92.7	13	101.9	23
High Level	108.2	21	105.3	26	90.8	16	105.4	23
High Prairie	114.4	21	114.0	26	90.2	16	105.9	22
High River	97.4	21	101.5	26	90.0	14	103.5	21
Hinton	101.1	21	101.3	26	91.5	15	103.0	23
Jasper	114.8	21	113.1	26	87.8	14	102.8	21
Lethbridge	94.8	21	106.4	26	91.6	16	99.3	23
Lloydminster	93.3	21	100.9	26	88.4	14	100.1	23
Medicine Hat	95.9	21	104.5	26	95.9	17	101.7	23
Okotoks	95.5	21	107.5	26	94.1	16	101.0	23
Olds	102.5	21	102.0	26	85.5	17	101.4	23
Peace River	108.1	21	106.7	26	96.9	18	101.3	23
Pincher Creek	110.4	21	109.5	26	85.0	16	100.1	22
Ponoka	102.7	21	103.5	26	85.2	16	100.7	23
Red Deer	91.7	21	90.9	26	93.6	18	99.5	23
Rocky Mtn.House	103.9	21	109.3	26	93.7	18	109.3	23
Slave Lake	102.8	21	103.7	26	98.3	15	104.9	22
St. Albert	93.3	21	94.6	26	96.1	15	100.6	23
St. Paul	107.9	21	106.5	25	92.6	17	103.9	23
Stettler	97.2	21	94.9	26	92.8	17	98.0	23
Taber	100.8	21	109.2	26	91.8	9	103.3	20
Vegreville	103.6	21	108.3	26	85.6	15	100.9	22
Wainwright	103.0	21	106.8	25	87.3	17	103.5	23
Whitecourt	104.4	21	101.6	26	89.6	15	106.1	22

* Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

TABLE 5 (cont.)

EDMONTON-BASED COMPARISONS

COMMODITY CATEGORY INDICES

Number of Non-food Items Surveyed*, Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
April 2005

COMMUNITY	RECREATION & LEISURE		TRANSPORTA-TION		CLOTHING		SHELTER		UTILITIES	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	33	100.0	19	100.0	45	100.0	5	100.0	3
Athabasca	98.3	30	97.5	15	100.1	26	87.4	5	101.6	3
Barrhead	94.1	33	97.7	16	99.1	44	69.4	5	98.0	3
Brooks	95.9	33	100.7	16	99.4	45	89.5	5	97.1	3
Calgary	103.2	33	97.9	19	101.4	45	109.2	5	107.5	3
Camrose	91.7	33	94.6	16	104.4	45	84.7	5	105.7	3
Canmore	109.2	32	102.3	16	104.9	43	169.8	5	106.9	3
Cold Lake	94.5	32	100.1	18	101.4	45	91.7	5	112.8	3
Drayton Valley	92.3	33	100.3	16	99.1	44	96.4	5	99.0	3
Drumheller	100.5	33	99.1	19	99.9	40	89.0	5	112.3	3
Fort McMurray	102.8	33	102.8	18	101.4	45	169.7	5	109.8	3
Grande Cache	99.6	30	96.2	10	100.1	37	77.9	5	103.7	3
Grande Prairie	95.5	33	99.6	19	98.0	45	110.1	5	117.6	3
Hanna	102.5	31	97.6	14	103.6	41	77.5	5	108.6	3
High Level	101.5	32	101.3	15	103.1	45	100.5	5	123.1	3
High Prairie	98.9	33	98.5	16	101.3	40	84.6	5	110.6	3
High River	100.6	31	97.2	14	100.7	24	98.1	5	98.8	3
Hinton	94.6	33	98.8	16	99.7	45	99.9	5	92.0	3
Jasper	134.4	32	94.4	12	99.3	34	137.7	5	113.2	3
Lethbridge	100.0	33	95.2	19	100.3	45	84.0	5	106.8	3
Lloydminster	94.2	32	96.5	17	99.5	45	88.8	5	112.5	3
Medicine Hat	102.2	33	102.0	18	100.0	44	94.1	5	74.1	3
Okotoks	96.6	33	102.4	17	99.6	45	98.1	5	105.5	3
Olds	98.2	33	99.7	16	99.8	45	87.0	5	100.6	3
Peace River	98.9	33	103.3	16	100.5	45	100.3	5	111.9	3
Pincher Creek	97.3	33	97.3	17	99.3	42	79.2	5	104.9	3
Ponoka	96.5	31	99.4	14	100.2	38	77.6	5	96.2	5
Red Deer	97.5	33	97.2	18	100.8	45	95.6	5	96.2	3
Rocky Mtn.House	99.0	32	100.9	17	103.5	44	91.4	5	102.2	3
Slave Lake	98.9	32	97.9	16	98.0	45	104.8	5	122.7	3
St. Albert	94.0	33	99.7	19	99.5	45	107.4	5	101.2	3
St. Paul	95.6	31	95.8	15	96.0	44	76.8	5	113.7	3
Stettler	93.6	33	98.3	17	99.0	45	82.0	5	114.7	3
Taber	95.8	30	100.3	15	96.2	36	87.0	5	107.9	3
Vegreville	95.6	33	100.3	17	95.5	44	77.0	5	112.0	3
Wainwright	95.9	33	95.6	15	101.9	44	81.9	5	90.5	3
Whitecourt	97.7	32	93.6	16	98.8	45	92.0	5	93.1	3

* Notes: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

FIGURE 1
ALL COMMODITY INDICES BY LOCATION

FIGURE 2
ALL FOOD INDICES BY LOCATION

FIGURE 3
ALL NON-FOOD INDICES BY LOCATION

FIGURE 4

Percent Distribution of Weights by Category

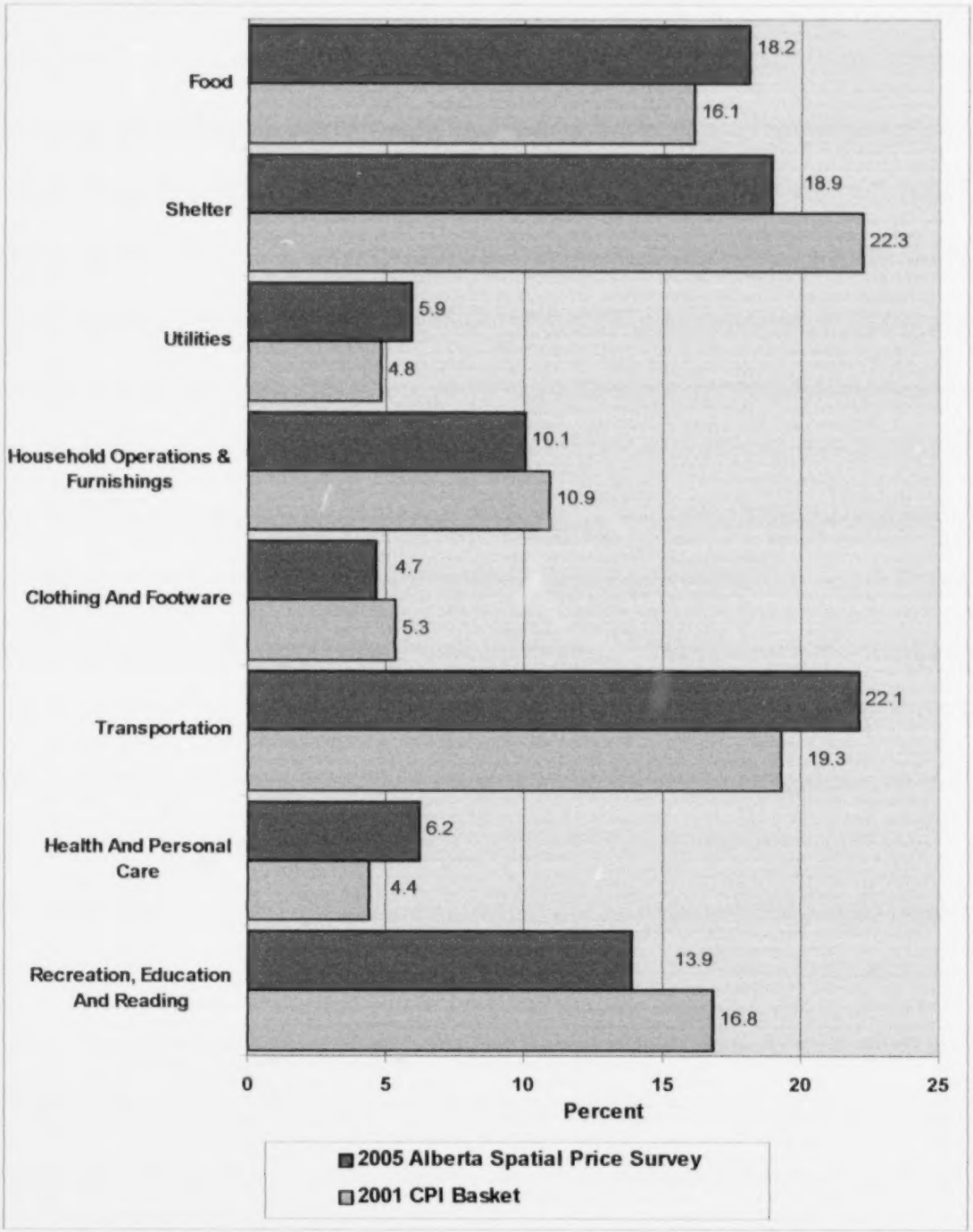

TABLE 6

CATEGORIES AND ITEMS SURVEYED

Food and Non-Food Items

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
1. Dairy	**1.51**	**5. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables (cont.)**	
Butter		Grapes	
Cheese		Green Pepper	
Cottage Cheese		Lettuce	
Cream		Onions	
Ice Cream		Oranges	
Milk - Canned		Potatoes	
Milk - Fresh		Tomatoes	
Processed Cheese Slices			
Yogurt		**6. Meat, Fish, Poultry & Other**	**2.57**
2. Fats & Oils	**0.13**	Beef - Various Cuts	
Cooking Oil		Chicken - Various Cuts	
Margarine		Eggs	
		Fish - Canned	
3. Cereals & Breads	**1.77**	Fish - Frozen	
Bread		Fish/Seafood - Canned	
Buns		Luncheon Meat - Canned	
Cold Cereal		Luncheon Meat - Prepared	
Cookies		Peanuts	
Crackers		Pork – Various Cuts	
Doughnuts		Turkey - Frozen	
Flour			
Macaroni		**7. Frozen & Packaged Foods**	**2.86**
Muffins		Baby Food/Formula	
Rice		Black Pepper	
Rolled Oats		Cake - Frozen	
		Cocoa Powder	
4. Processed Fruits & Vegetables	**0.70**	Coffee	
Canned Fruit		Fruit Flavored Crystals	
Canned Vegetables		Ketchup	
Frozen Vegetables		Macaroni Dinner	
Fruit Juice - Canned		Meat Pies - Frozen	
Fruit Juice - Frozen		Peanut Butter	
Fruit Juice - Packaged		Pickles	
Jam		Potato Chips	
Raisins		Salad Dressing	
		Salt	
5. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	**1.32**	Soft Drinks	
Apples		Soup - Canned	
Bananas		Spaghetti Sauce	
Broccoli		Sugar	
Cabbage		Tea	
Cantaloupe			
Carrots			
Celery			

TABLE 6 (cont.)

CATEGORIES AND ITEMS SURVEYED

Food and Non-Food Items

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
8. Restaurant Meals	**4.53**
Breakfast, Restaurant	
Dinner, Restaurant	
Lunch, Restaurant	
Snack, Restaurant	
Take-out Meal	
9. Personal Care Products	**2.63**
Analgesic - A.S.A	
Antiseptic	
Bandages	
Bar Soap	
Cleansing 'Cold' Cream	
Cold/Cough Remedy	
Contact Lens Solution	
Deodorant/Antiperspirant	
Disposable Diapers	
Feminine Hygiene	
Lipstick	
Men's Shaving Cream	
Prescription Medicine	
Razor Blades - Men's	
Shampoo	
Toothpaste	
Women's Spray Cologne	
10. Household Supplies	**2.32**
All-Purpose Cleaner	
Bleach	
Cut/Potted Flowers	
Dishwasher Detergent	
Dog Food	
Dry Cell Batteries - Alkaline	
Envelopes	
Fabric Softener	
Facial Tissues	
Food Wrap	
Garbage Bags	
Laundry Detergent	
Lawn Fertilizer	
Light Bulbs	
Liquid Dish Soap	
Paper Towels	
Scouring Powder	
Sewing Thread	
Solid Broadcloth	

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
10. Household Supplies (cont.)	
Table Napkins - Paper	
Toilet Tissue	
11. Household Services	**4.48**
Baby-Sitting	
Chiropractic Services	
Coin Operated Laundry	
Day Care	
Dry Cleaning	
Hairstyling - Women's/Men's	
House Cleaning Service	
Internet Service	
Lenses - Eyeglass/Contact	
Shoe Repairs	
Tooth Restoration	
Veterinary Services	
VHS Recorder Repairs	
12. Household Equipment	**4.49**
Bath Towel	
Bed Linens	
Computer Equipment	
Cookware	
Dinnerware	
Entertainment Center	
Flatware	
Glass Pie Plate	
Hammer	
Lawnmower	
Major Appliances	
Paint	
Patio Furniture	
Power Tools	
Shingles - Roof	
Small Appliances	
Vacuum Cleaner	
Window Blinds	

TABLE 6 (cont.)

CATEGORIES AND ITEMS SURVEYED

Food and Non-Food Items

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
13. Recreation & Leisure	**11.70**	**15. Clothing (cont.)**	
Beer/Liquor//Wine - Served		Dress/Casual Slacks - Men's/ Women's	
Beer/Liquor/Liqueur/Wine		Girl's Footwear	
Bicycle		Girl's T-shirt	
Cablevision		Gold Wedding Band	
Camera - Digital/35mm/Video		Infant's Sleeper	
CD/MP3 Player		Men's Footwear	
Cigarettes		Men's Shirt - Dress/Knit	
Colour Film & Processing		Nightgown - Girl's/Women's	
Compact Recordable Discs		Outerwear - Men's/Women's	
DVD Player		Socks - Boy's/Girl's/Men's	
Golf Balls		Swimwear - Boy's/Girl's/ Men's/Women's	
Golf Green Fee		Umbrella	
Motion Picture Admission		Women's Blazer	
Movie Rental		Women's Brassiere	
Newspaper		Women's Footwear	
Piano Lesson		Women's Panty Hose	
Pre-recorded DVD		Women's Shirt	
Television		Wrist Watch - Men's/Women's	
Toys			
Video Cassette Tape			
14. Transportation	**18.77**	**16. Shelter**	**16.05**
Antifreeze/Coolant		Mortgage Interest	
Auto Insurance		Property Taxes	
Automobile Paint Job		Rental Costs	
Car Rental		Replacement Cost	
Driving Lesson		Tenant's Insurance	
Gasoline			
Local Transit Fee		**17. Utilities**	**5.00**
Motor Oil		Electricity	
New Vehicle Leasing		Natural Gas	
New Vehicle Purchase		Water, Sewage & Garbage	
Oil Change & Lubrication			
Oil Filter			
Taxi Fare			
Wheel Alignment			
15. Clothing	**3.95**		
Briefs - Boy's/Girl's/Men's/ Women's			
Business Suit - Men's/ Women's			
Denim Jeans - Boy's/Girl's/ Men's			

Policy & Economic Analysis
Alberta Economic Development
4th floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton AB Canada T5J 4L6

Telephone: 780.427-6787
Fax: 780.422-0061
Website: www.alberta-canada.com

You can access the Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey and the following related department publications on the web at www.alberta-canada.com/statpub:

- Alberta's International Merchandise Exports
- Facts on Alberta
- Monthly Economic Review
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Inventory of Regional Alberta Projects
- Alberta Business Outlook

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